

Life of Christ

Some of Jesus' Followers Don't Believe John 6:60-71

Younger Verse

"You have words of eternal life." John 6:68

Older Verse

Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life." John 6:68

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Who remembers what we have talked about the last couple of weeks? Jesus fed a very large crowd with a very little food and when given the chance the next day, He talked to them about the Bread of Life. What, or who, is the Bread of Life? JESUS! Jesus told them that it was not nearly so important to fill their bellies as it was to be full spiritually. We can be satisfied spiritually if we trust in Jesus and accept His sacrifice on the cross for us. This is why God sent Jesus and we can have eternal life only through Him. Jesus taught all of this in the church in Capernaum.

By this time, Jesus had many followers. There were the twelve that He chose, but there were others who followed Him to listen to His teachings. They had problems, though, as Jesus taught about accepting His life and death. His life was that human body that God had given Him, that walked and talked and taught them the truth. His death, even though it had not happened yet, was the death He was going to die and the blood that was going to be spilt on the cross to make a way for us to be with Him forever. But these followers had a hard time listening to Jesus and believing Him. And because Jesus knows everything, He knew that they did not believe.

Jesus explained to His followers that He was speaking the truth and that those words could give them life, forever and ever. He also explained to them that what they could figure out and understand with their minds was not worth much, compared to the importance of God's word. Jesus even told them that no one can come to Him unless God calls him first, unless God is working in his life. Jesus even said something extraordinary. He had known from the beginning that these followers did not believe. He also already knew who would betray Him and

Lesson Goals

Stress the difference between the appearance of spirituality and actually choosing to place your trust in Jesus Christ.
Stress the fact that Jesus is worthy of our allegiance, even when it is difficult to follow Him.

it was one of the twelve He had chosen. Because of Jesus' words and this conversation, many who had followed Him before chose to turn away from Him, never to follow Him again.

Jesus took this opportunity to talk to the twelve men he had chosen, His disciples. Jesus asked them if they wanted to leave, too. Simon Peter, Andrew's brother, answered Jesus and spoke for the other disciples, too. Peter said, "Jesus, where would we go? You are the One whose words are true. You are the One who gives eternal life!" Peter meant that these men could not even begin to think about returning to the meaningless traditions they had practiced in church before, saying certain words and keeping a list of rules that meant nothing. And he knew they could not even think about choosing the fake, or false, gods that the unbelievers worshipped. Peter, and the others, knew that Jesus was real, that He was God's Son. The other followers had walked with Jesus, but had left, unbelieving. These men, Jesus' disciples, knew they must stay with Jesus and follow Him.

And you? What do you believe? Are you keeping a list of rules? Do you believe in other gods? Are you having a hard time believing Jesus? Listen to Peter's words again - "Lord, where else would we go. You have the words of eternal life." You can't have life forever with God any other way. Jesus is it. Will you choose to follow him today, believing that He is the Son of God, sent to die in your place?

Memory Verse Activities

Construct a cube from cardstock and write phrases of the verse on each side of the cube. Play "Hot Potato" with the Memory Verse Cube using it to help learn the memory verse.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God that His words are true and that we can have eternal life through Jesus Christ His Son.

Clean Up and Snack Time

Bring different kinds of bread today. Talk about their importance, continuing to reinforce the lesson.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 18
Jesus' Brothers Do Not Believe
John 7:1-9

Preschool Lesson

Following Jesus

In our lesson today from the Bible, we read that Jesus had many followers. They walked with Him and talked with Him. They watched Him make people well and they listened to Him teach. But as they listened to Him teach, some things were hard for them. These things were hard for them because they did not really believe He was God's Son. They did not really believe that His words were any more important than the other teachers'. So, when things got difficult, they chose NOT to follow Jesus. They turned and walked away from Him.

But, there were other followers. There were the followers, or disciples, that Jesus chose, like Andrew and Peter, Philip and Nathanael. How many of these followers did Jesus have? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve!

Sing to the tune of "One Little, Two Little, Three Little Indians."

One, Two, Three, Four, Five Little Followers,
Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten Little Followers,
Eleven Little, Twelve Little Followers of Jesus
Wanted to stay with Jesus!

That is right. Jesus chose twelve very special followers. These followers had walked with Him and talked with Him, too. They had also watched Jesus make people well. They had even listened to the same teachings. And these twelve followers decided to stay with Jesus. They could not leave because they believed that Jesus was God's Son, that He spoke the truth and that they could be right with God because of Him!

They all listened to the same Jesus. The difference was that some believed and some did not.

Pray: God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus. Thank you for the twelve followers who decided to stay with Jesus. Help me to follow Jesus, too.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today
- Play “Follow the Leader.” Discuss the importance of following Jesus, even when it is difficult.
- Make a chart with two columns. Title the left-hand column “Foods with Bread” and title the right-hand column “Spiritual Food with the Bread of Life.” First, have students fill in the “Food with Bread” column, listing all of the foods they eat that include sliced bread, biscuits, cornbread, pita bread, tortillas, etc. Discuss how long their lists are. Then work on filling out the “Spiritual Food with the Bread of Life” column by listing activities they can participate in that include Jesus, the Bread of Life.” This list might include; church, prayer, Bible reading, Bible Study, etc.
- Teach your students the song “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”
- For older students: Discuss different religious traditions they know of, or other beliefs they have heard of. Discuss, as well, Peter’s statement, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God” (v 68-69) Discuss the fact that we may not have Jesus with us physically any more, but the “Spirit who gives life” (v 63) comes to live within us when we believe and place our trust in Jesus. And it is this Spirit who teaches us when we read God’s Word, the Bible.
- Have each of your older students choose one of Jesus’ twelve disciples. Provide them with Scripture references and have them research that particular disciple. If time permits, ask them to write a newspaper article about that disciple with an illustration, if possible.